

ADVISORY

FROM THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chairman Brady Announces Hearing on MedPAC's June Report to Congress

House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX) today announced that the Subcommittee on Health will hold a hearing on the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission's (MedPAC) June report to the Congress. The report details the Commission's recommendations for reforming Medicare payment policies. The Subcommittee will hear from MedPAC's Executive Director, Mark E. Miller, Ph.D. **The hearing will take place on Wednesday, June 18, 2014, in 1100 Longworth House Office Building, beginning at 10:00 A.M.**

In view of the limited time available, oral testimony at this hearing will be from the invited witness only. However, any individual or organization not scheduled for an oral appearance may submit a written statement for consideration by the Committee and for inclusion in the printed record of the hearing.

BACKGROUND:

MedPAC advises Congress on Medicare payment policy. The Commission is required by law to submit two reports to Congress on an annual basis. The first report reviews Medicare payment policies and is due by March 15. The second report examines specific issues facing Medicare and is due by June 15.

In its June 2014 report, MedPAC examines:

- The need to compare Medicare's policies across traditional fee-for-service, Medicare Advantage, and Accountable Care Organizations;
- Policy options for financial assistance for low-income beneficiaries in the context of its June 2012 recommendation to restructure the Medicare benefit design;
- Whether changes to Medicare's risk adjustment methodology, which accounts for severity of patient illness, can improve payment accuracy;
- Payment changes to bolster primary care and ensure access to these services;

- How payments to Inpatient Rehabilitation Facilities (IRFs) and Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) differ for the treatment of similar patients; and
- The impact of improved medication adherence on overall Medicare spending.

In announcing the hearing, Chairman Brady stated, **“It is our duty to make sure we have a strong Medicare program that works for seniors and taxpayers. MedPAC is a key advisor in this effort. I am pleased that the Commission continues to call attention to the need to improve Medicare’s benefit design. This commonsense step would modernize the Medicare benefit so it looks more like other health plans. I commend the Commission for highlighting the need to compare fee-for-service to Medicare Advantage and other payment system options. We owe it to our seniors to provide an apples-to-apples comparison of quality and cost of these options in their geographic area. This hearing enables the Committee to hear MedPAC’s valuable insights on these and other important issues.”**

FOCUS OF THE HEARING:

The hearing will focus on MedPAC’s June 2014 Report to Congress.

DETAILS FOR SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS:

Please Note: Any person(s) and/or organization(s) wishing to submit for the hearing record must follow the appropriate link on the hearing page of the Committee website and complete the informational forms. From the Committee homepage, <http://waysandmeans.house.gov>, select “Hearings.” Select the hearing for which you would like to submit, and click on the link entitled, “Click here to provide a submission for the record.” Once you have followed the online instructions, submit all requested information. ATTACH your submission as a Word document, in compliance with the formatting requirements listed below, **by the close of business on Wednesday, July 2, 2014**. Finally, please note that due to the change in House mail policy, the U.S. Capitol Police will refuse sealed-package deliveries to all House Office Buildings. For questions, or if you encounter technical problems, please call (202) 225-3943 or (202) 225-3625.

FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS:

The Committee relies on electronic submissions for printing the official hearing record. As always, submissions will be included in the record according to the discretion of the Committee. The Committee will not alter the content of your submission, but we reserve the right to format it according to our guidelines. Any submission provided to the Committee by a witness, any supplementary materials submitted for the printed record, and any written comments in response to a request for written comments must conform to the guidelines listed below. Any submission or supplementary item not in compliance with these guidelines will not be printed, but will be maintained in the Committee files for review and use by the Committee.

1. All submissions and supplementary materials must be provided in Word format and **MUST NOT** exceed a total of 10 pages, including attachments. Witnesses and submitters are advised that the Committee relies on electronic submissions for printing the official hearing record.

2. Copies of whole documents submitted as exhibit material will not be accepted for printing. Instead, exhibit material should be referenced and quoted or paraphrased. All exhibit material not meeting these specifications will be maintained in the Committee files for review and use by the Committee.

3. All submissions must include a list of all clients, persons and/or organizations on whose behalf the witness appears. A supplemental sheet must accompany each submission listing the name, company, address, telephone, and fax numbers of each witness.

The Committee seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202-225-1721 or 202-226-3411 TTD/TTY in advance of the event (four business days notice is requested). Questions with regard to special accommodation needs in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats) may be directed to the Committee as noted above.

Note: All Committee advisories and news releases are available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.waysandmeans.house.gov/>.